

# Berkhamsted *review*

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**April 2007**

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*for Town and Parish*

**30p**



## *The Parish Magazine of St Peter's with All Saints'*

Welcome to the April 2007 issue of the  
Berkhamsted *review*

Climate change and global warming have, over the last couple of years, received a rapidly increasing amount of attention in the media. This has not passed unnoticed. In recent opinion polls in this country, 25% of those questioned thought the future of the environment to be the most important issue facing the country. A few years ago it was 5%. The *review* is not unaffected by this trend. In this issue **Ian Reay** ponders the future of our local flora, **Victoria Vosper** reviews a new book on environmental sustainability and we give space to the far-reaching environmental concerns of **Christian Aid**. What is the truth? Yes, the global climate is changing, but do we really know why? Or to what extent we are the culprits? Perhaps these questions are unimportant and the truth that we need to grasp, regardless of the conflicting evidence, is that we are responsible for a world in which we are the stewards and not the masters. What matters is that we should use every resource wisely and with a loving regard for God's creation in all its living and inanimate splendour and complexity.

*Christopher Green*

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*Photo: Tony Firshman*

**Editorial Team:** Christopher Green, 17 Cowper Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3DE (863241)  
email: greenc@waitrose.com  
Tony Firshman, 29 Longfield Road, Tring, HP23 4DG (828254)  
email: review@greatberkhamsted.org.uk fax: 828255  
Joe Garstin, 26 Priory Gardens, Berkhamsted, HP4 2DS (866846)  
email: joe\_garstin@hotmail.com

**Advertising:** David Woodward, 3 Murray Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 1JD (862723)  
woodies@chyverton3.freemove.co.uk

**Circulation:** Sheila Miller, 31 Lincoln Court, Berkhamsted, HP4 3EN (864277)

**Treasurer:** Miles Nicholas, 46 Fieldway, HP4 2NY (871598)  
email: miles.nicholas@btinternet.com

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**The Crucifix  
Father Michael  
Bowie reminds  
us of its  
meaning**

## review leader

Like Christmas, Easter reminds us that God is a player, not a commentator, in human life. We need the commentators – in sport, in politics, in the arts – but we all have a sneaking suspicion that they couldn't cut it in the game itself.

Christmas gives us the story of how God got involved; Easter tells us about what God did with that opportunity.

In certain types of fairytale or even some religious myths (I'm thinking of ancient Greece or Rome) this might be a story of God making mischief with human life – playing at being human. The *Rocky Horror Show*, if you remember that piece of seventies exuberance, was a science-fiction spoof of the same kind – aliens playing at human decadence. Interestingly, that story proves difficult to finish and, despite the wit and fun of what has gone before, dissolves into a rather solemn nihilism at the end.

The story of Jesus is the opposite of mischief or nihilism. It shows us God choosing to get involved, not with the trivia, but the difficult bits of human life. For this reason we look very hard at the cross in the week before Easter. On Palm Sunday, as well as hearing about Jesus being carried into Jerusalem on a donkey and given a royal welcome with palms strewn before him, we all join in reading the story of the torture and death of Jesus. On Good Friday we do that again, but this time in a service during which a crucifix is unveiled.

St Paul said we should *glory* in the cross, not be *ashamed* of it. He didn't mean pieces of jewellery or even huge crossbars of wood. He meant the figure of *Christ on the cross*, which we remind ourselves to take seriously and look at afresh by unveiling it in that

service. We must look at the cross with Jesus on it, not as an empty symbol, or we are in danger of forgetting that God cares about suffering. There on the cross we can see how God expresses solidarity first with the victims of torture and violence, not the rich and powerful. And there too we can see the beginning of death's defeat, if we believe in Easter and the resurrection. But that's the point – we don't properly arrive at or understand the new life without what came before it. Not looking at it can be a way of not facing the suffering which we can so easily ignore in other lives, near at hand or far away; not looking at it can also be a way of failing to accept that God cares about our pain.

I have a powerful if disturbing illustration of how this image can be misused. I would say that a plain cross doesn't tell much of story, but in Chile I bought something in the Bible Society bookshop which is much worse. It is a wooden cross, brightly painted. On it is depicted a little girl – a smiling cartoon sort of figure with plaits and, I think, wings. On the cross is written *Baby Jesus, guide me with your light*. To me that is a grotesque image; what it says about the Chilean psyche, trying to distance itself from the brutal Pinochet years, might be worth considering. Despite the inoffensive sentiment of the words, it is the opposite of a Christian symbol, because it cosifies and trivialises what Jesus did and suffered. It really says, don't worry about this bit, cut straight to the glory.

But if God is a player and not a commentator he wants us to know that he is with us in the pain and the awfulness, not to pretend it didn't happen. Whatever our pain may be, he wants us to see that he doesn't just offer us words in response. The crucifix is a powerful reminder of that – of how brutality and violence cannot kill love. If we distance ourselves from it, we distance ourselves from the new life of Easter too. ❖

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Were you in St Peter's on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2006? A long time ago, I know, but if you were, then you would have heard **Reg Bailey**, the **MU** Chief Executive, speak about its work overseas. This parish makes a significant annual donation to the **MU** Overseas Fund. In his sermon Reg spoke of parenting, but not in this country.

It is easy to think that the difficulties of family life and problems with children are confined to western societies and the developed world. The Mothers' Union knows this is not so. **MU** workers in developing countries tell of the problems families experience in dealing with their children. The importance of parenting is often overshadowed by poverty, famine and illness, especially HIV/AIDS. Survival on a day-to-day basis, providing food and obtaining water, and trying to generate income, mean that time and energy for developing relationships with children, take a back seat. The **MU**'s successful Parenting Programme, begun in this country for the Millennium, has become a world wide project. This began in 2004 when 10 people travelled to the UK to be *trained as trainers*. Based on the programme operating here, it has been adapted to suit local cultures and specific problems, and is currently working in dioceses in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and The West Indies. Now there are 180 parenting group facilitators working in their local communities.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December **Reg Bailey** spoke of the Parenting Programme in Guyana. Guyana is in South America, but in the Anglican Province of the West Indies. The Parenting Trainer, **Sheran Harper**, between June 2005 and July 2006, trained 28 facilitators to work with groups in their parishes and communities. Six of these are men,

## WHAT CHILDREN REALLY NEED

**Margaret Burbidge** looks at the **MU** Parenting Programme



acknowledging the importance of the father in parenting. Among the topics covered in the groups are *What Children Really Need*, *Keeping Children Safe*, *Setting Love Limits* for dealing with discipline and *Keeping Sane as Parents*. These and many other issues are

topics that concern parents the world over. Sheran reports that as well as benefits to family life, relationships between parents in the home and with colleagues at work have improved. This year there are plans to take the Parenting Programme to the Amerindians in remote areas of the country. Sheran is aware of the extra demands of adapting handbooks and additional travel expenses as the programme expands, but it is her fervent prayer that one day every church in the country will be equipped to run its own **MU** parenting group. In his sermon Reg Bailey said that all **MU** work is undergirded by prayer. Many **MU** members around the world say Mid-day Prayers in their homes or when meeting together, something **Sheran Harper** knows about and knows it supports her in the difficult challenges she has to face.

The future of the Parenting Programme looks promising; news of its benefits spreads rapidly and these extend to grandparents, aunts, uncles and those caring for orphans. How can there fail to be benefits as more and more people realise the importance of parenting, of spending time with children and the impact of this on future generations! In the wider community people of different backgrounds work together and bring stability to family life. With the support and prayers of 3.6 million **MU** members throughout the world behind it, the success of this programme should not be surprising! ❖

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Bluebells will soon cover the ground across Ashridge and Hockeridge Woods with a hazy blue carpet. I always try to make an excursion into the woods at this time of year to see this display. One of my earliest childhood memories is of standing at the bottom of a wooded slope, staring transfixed at a shimmer of bluebells under a pastel green and brown grove of ash and hawthorn trees. It was not the poet's intended meaning, but it is this *blue* that I think of when I read the two verses from Housman:

*Into my heart an air that kills  
From yon far country blows,  
What are those blue remembered hills,  
What spires, what farms are those?*

*That is the land of lost content,  
I see it shining plain,  
The happy highways where I went  
And cannot come again.*

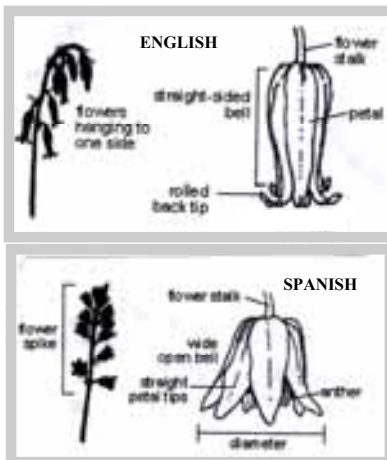
The bluebell lies deep in our psyche and is linked to fairy enchantments. It is said that bluebells rang to summon fairies to their gatherings. If any humans were to hear this belling they would soon die. This is rather a frightening story for such a charming sight, but there was a time when forests were dark and forbidding places.

Now bluebells are our favourite wildflower. The English bluebell is closely related to the hyacinth and among many other names it has also been called the wild or wood hyacinth. It has been a protected species since 1998 and half of all the specimens in the world grow here. But now there are two other varieties of bluebell to be found in our countryside as well as the native bluebell; there is an immigrant Spanish bluebell and a hybrid formed from the two. The native flower has

## Ian Reay's &news &views

### Blue Remembered Hills

#### Ian Reay in praise of the English bluebell



a characteristic droop to the stalk and long, bell shaped flowers which hang to one side. The Spanish and hybrid varieties have straighter stalks and shorter, fatter flowers that are a lighter shade of blue. English bluebells also have a strong scent which is almost absent from the others. The native bluebell grows in deciduous woods, in hedgerows and under bracken. The Spanish variety is cultivated and is imported from Spain, Portugal and North Africa. It has been sold in garden centres and planted in gardens, from where it has spread. It tends to be found around towns and villages, churchyards and cemeteries, and it is spreading more widely still.

Since bluebells are insect pollinated, bees that have visited Spanish bluebells in gardens can visit nearby woods and pollinate bluebells there, giving rise to the hybrid. A survey of bluebell woods four years ago found that one in six broadleaved woodlands had the Spanish or hybrid version as well as the English bluebell. There is little or no evidence yet of the hybrid appearing in woods in Hertfordshire or Buckinghamshire but examples have been found recently in Oxfordshire as well as other counties.

As with other familiar features of our landscape, growing evidence of a warmer climate is leading many to fear for the future of the native bluebell. The Spanish and hybrid varieties will be better suited to a warmer, drier climate and, if the predictions of higher temperatures are fulfilled, they may become much more widespread, displacing the native. It would be a pity to lose the sad but smiling stoop of the English bluebell which for me heralds the spring and brighter, sunnier times ahead. ❖

Poem extract from *A Shropshire Lad*

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## STEWARDSHIP

**Paul Jullien**, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee writes

Berkhamsted that many people generously give all three freely and help to keep our two churches thriving at the centre of the community.

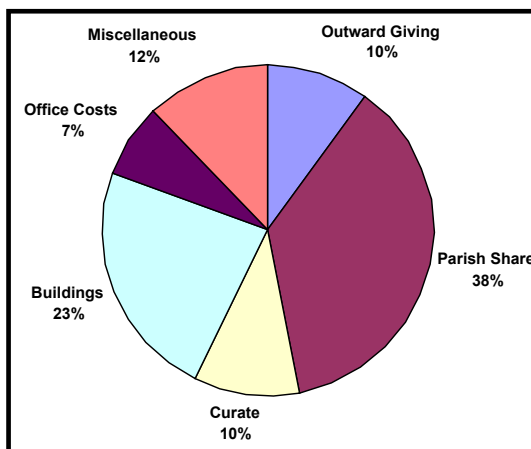
Maintaining a medieval building like St Peter's is a substantial ongoing task! In the next 12 months we will have to replace the heating system which will cost us in excess of £100,000. This sum is in addition to all our normal ongoing running costs. Additionally we will be training a new curate which we will also have to fund.

Even before spending any money on the heating system we expect our budget for the year to be just under £250,000. So how is this money spent? The chart shows how we are allocating the PCC's general fund in 2007/8.

Currently we are expecting a deficit in the fund due to a shortfall in income.

This shortfall can be made up by joining the Stewardship scheme and donating on a regular basis and by those already in the scheme increasing their contributions. If you would like to do either please collect a Stewardship form from inside the church or by contacting the Parish Office:

churchoffice@greatberkhamsted.org.uk ❖




## The Petertide Fair

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 10 am - 3pm St Peter's Churchyard**

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## LIVING SYSTEM

Victoria Vosper reviews local writer Bruce Nixon's book on sustainability

*Living System - Making sense of sustainability* by **Bruce Nixon** (with a forward by **Dame Anita Roddick**)  
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covering 4% of the world's desert area with photo-voltaic panels? In his book *Living System - Making*

*sense of sustainability*, Bruce Nixon explores the climate change crisis which we as a human race are heading into; a crisis that will threaten food, water and energy and which is only accelerated by the globalisation agenda of large corporations. And it is not just the physical climate that calls for us to reorganise our lifestyles. The social climate of international inequality needs altering too.

Nixon highlights the fact that 25,000 to 30,000 people die each day because they do not have enough food and water. Charity does not address the underlying causes. Richer nations such as ours, and we as individuals therefore need a fundamental shift, including perhaps getting used to less. Nixon draws upon the example of meat production. Global meat demand is expected to reach 327 million tonnes in 2020. The world is a living system similar to our bodies and this overly protein-rich diet is crippling both. The extra hectares of land, water, energy burned, chemicals applied to grow the requisite amount of feed to produce so many tonnes of meat is a dangerous strain on this planet. Is it time we ate a more balanced diet? Furthermore, the Organic, GM free and Fair Trade markets are leading a revolution and we all have purchasing power to protect workers in the developing world and choose products grown locally and sold with less packaging so reducing the amount that ends up in landfill.

Another example drawn by Nixon is plastic bottles. They take a thousand years to biodegrade and bottled water is no healthier

in Britain than tap water according to the Earth Policy Institute. Yet how many do we buy and throw away each year? Could we reuse bottles instead of turning them so quickly into refuse? Refuse is a big

problem for us in Britain where we have one of the worst records in Rich Europe. A basic set of principles for ecological sustainability which individuals and families can institute as well as governments would be: reduce, reuse, recycle and repair.

Then there is Nixon's frightening question: what would be the cost of a gallon of petrol if cost to the environment were included? Nixon sees business as a transforming force and holds up some positive case studies. Arup is involved in the building of the world's first sustainable city. *Good Energy* awards bonuses to employees who reduce their carbon emissions in work travel and then there is Beddington Zero Energy Development in Sutton; a testimony to eco-friendly, affordable and attractive housing which offers ease of lifestyle without destroying the countryside. Greener buses and car clubs bulk out the list further.

This is an informative and thought-provoking read, even if it does make you wriggle a little bit in your chair! Presented in a text-book style and covering a range of subjects from history and politics right the way down to lists of practical steps individuals can take to bring about change in their homes and lifestyles, it also includes a section of useful resources and references. Whilst the author's tone sometimes teeters upon the religiously pluralistic, the call to respect the Living System as the good stewards that God has created us to be is one to which Christians can relate and respond with passion. All in all: a book with a vital message. ❖

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Christmas is so special - no wonder people of all faiths and none enjoy Nativity plays and Christmas carols. Secularists complain out of political correctness.

As well as inter-faith dialogue, maybe understanding of and commitment to our own faith would be helpful -

there is a challenge to check out our historic faith and make it personal *Render to God as well as to Caesar!*

Many people responded to the *Street Theatre* at the *Festival of Light* - better known as the *Live Nativity Tableau with Carols* at the *Christmas Lights Switch-On* in the market place just before Advent. We were impressed to see someone dressed as **Bishop Nicholas of Myra** - in present-day Turkey, the original Santa Claus, bow before the infant Jesus.

Of course Christmas is special. Those wonderful stories - however one understands them - have such appeal and point to the amazing intervention of a loving God longing, in a unique way, to make real contact with his creatures and to share our joys and sorrows. The wonder and humility of the incarnation!

However, Christmas, of course points to Easter and God's plan of reconciliation. We know that the disciples changed from fear and despair at the crucifixion, to joy and power after the Resurrection and Pentecost. The early Christians were bowled over by the conviction that the risen Jesus was with them.

What a shame for people who only want to stay in the nostalgia of Christmas. What a shame for sceptics who shut their eyes to spiritual things. What a shame that **Dan Brown** thinks Christianity is based on a lie - made up by the Emperor Constantine. This might appeal to people who won't face the challenge of Jesus. What a shame that **Richard Dawkins** thinks that God has been imagined by suggestible, deluded

## SCIENCE DOESN'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS

Viv Dottridge  
takes on the sceptics

people. He ignores the spiritual, personal and historical evidence. What a shame for children if Dawkins followed his charity plan to narrow education and to restrict children's natural sense of wonder about nature and supernature!

Church schools are popular because of the high standard of all-round education, culture and the Christian ethos of love, care and respect for all. Most Christian faith schools in the UK accept Darwin of course, but science does not have all the answers. God is in their equation, as far more than the supreme Intelligent Designer!

As a balance to Dawkins' book *The God Delusion*, I have found other scientists' books very helpful:

*The Language of God* by **Francis Collins**, who found God through his work on DNA and the human genome and *The Road Less Travelled and Beyond* by **M Scott Peck**, eminent psychiatrist. Both books are very readable and convincing. ❖

### The Risen Lord

Our cover shows the east window in the chancel of St Peter's Church. Its theme is the Resurrection and its central figure, the risen Lord. It was inspired by the Rector, **John Wolstenholme Cobb** to commemorate the poet **William Cowper**. By Clayton & Bell, it was introduced in 1872 funded by public subscription. Unfortunately, the poet, at the bottom of the window, and the dedicatory inscription are normally hidden behind the reredos, also introduced in 1872, a gift of parishioners in memory of Cobb's predecessor, **John Hutchinson**. It seems an oddly insensitive arrangement.

*Christopher Green*

Have you ever wondered what goes on in the tower when you hear the bells ringing? Just below the roof where the louvres are, hang eight bells and when they are all ringing, over 3 tons of bell metal swing through 360° every 2 seconds. All this is controlled by the ringers some 40ft below in the ringing chamber, pulling rhythmically on the bell ropes. The bell's note is made by the clapper hitting the inside of the bell just before it completes its full circle of movement.

## COLD, CRAMPED AND DIRTY

Margaret Burbidge describes  
maintenance work on the bells



(L to R) Robert Chapman, Tony Ruberry  
and Felicity Beckett

Bell mechanics are quite simple and have remained largely unchanged for centuries, but every now and again some maintenance or servicing is required. For some time it has been clear that the clappers needed to be removed from the bells for attention and this would have to be carried out at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in East London. All this was duly arranged for the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> February 2007 and in order to save considerable costs a group of St Peter's ringers undertook the task of removing the clappers on the Sunday afternoon. To do this they had to work in a very cramped space underneath each bell. The clappers then had to be carried down the spiral staircase (some 87 steps) and loaded into the back of a car. Five tired and

dirty ringers emerged two hours later, job complete.

Monday morning saw the clappers transported to Whitechapel, to the foundry where the original bells were cast (or made) in 1837.

Driving through London is not something David does regularly, but with an excellent navigator, and one short excursion into the Congestion Charge Zone, the clappers arrived at the foundry. They were

inspected and the amount of work needed ascertained.

The plan was that the work would be carried out within the week, the clappers collected on Friday morning and fitted back into the bells in time for Sunday service ringing. So driver and navigator returned to Whitechapel on the Friday morning, avoiding the dreaded C Zone this time, loaded the refurbished and newly-painted clappers into the car and retraced their steps to St Peter's.

Then the hard work began. All eight clappers had to be carried up the 87 steps of the tower, and refitting was more difficult than removing them! Again the work was done from underneath the bell with little light apart from a head torch, crouching in all sorts of odd positions to fix the clapper in the bell and ensure it would



**The Cowper Society presents  
The Chiltern Chamber Choir  
and Serenata**



directed by **Adrian Davis**    Organ: **Jon Lee**

**6:30pm    Palm Sunday  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 2007**

**St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted**

**Tallis - Lamentations    Scarlatti - Stabat Mater  
Buxtehude - Missa Brevis    Kodaly - Pange Lingua  
Buxtehude -- Cantata; Trio**

swing in a straight line. The work was adjourned after about three hours. The motley crew emerged, dirty, somewhat stiff in places and with a touch of frostbite, for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February was a bitterly cold afternoon. Hearts were warmed and thirsts quenched in *The Crown* before hot showers and baths at home, but the respite was

temporary, for the job had to be finished on Saturday morning. And it was - the team sustained this time by coffee and cake from the Court House, and the bells tried out to check all was well - and it was! Mission accomplished and one of the team was moved to say "*Thanks for a fun (and worthwhile) couple of days!*"



Prior to this another job was carried out in the tower. For a long time there was concern that the belfry, where the bells are, is open to the spiral staircase, and bells can pose a serious danger to the unknowing and unwary. So a locked door into the belfry has been made and fitted by our oldest ringer. It has a little window so passers by on tower open days can see the 3 tons of metal which produce the sound of bells calling people to worship at St Peter's, Sunday by Sunday through the year. ❖

The December review included an article on the future development of St Peter's Church. Change is also in prospect at All Saints'.

## ALL SAINTS' - THE FUTURE

Father Michael Bowie  
outlines the way forward

### Why is change needed?

When **Father Martin Wright** moved to Reigate he was not replaced and we lost a full time priest in the parish. When I began discussing the future of All Saints' with the Methodist Minister, **Paul Timmis**, a year or so ago, it emerged that the Methodist Circuit will also lose a minister when Paul moves (summer next year). Meanwhile, the Rector of this parish has become a Team Rector, with oversight of four more churches and two Team Vicars, one of whom reaches retirement age in 2009 (which will involve supporting a vacancy, possibly of 12 months' duration). Towards the end of last year we were also put on notice that the diocese will require our deanery to lose another full time priest by 2016. As I expected, now that detailed thinking about that has begun, the most likely outcome will be a further decrease in provision of clergy in the Berkhamsted Team. There are clearly not sufficient clergy to staff all the Anglican churches in Berkhamsted and the Berkhamsted Team.

### Why now?

My concern has been to avoid a situation in which All Saints gradually declined through ever decreasing clerical leadership: the timing of **Paul Timmis'** leaving is crucial in this, so I decided that we needed to do something strategic in which he could be fully involved, and lead the congregation. The discussions gradually widened from Paul and me to various other clergy in both denominations (including the Archdeacon and Methodist Circuit Superintendent), the Leadership team at All Saints', the Joint Council and the Churchwardens and PCC of the parish. Having proposed various options to those who advise us on structures it became clear

that the only option to ensure the continuation of All Saints' Church was for it to become, ultimately, a separate church in the Team under Methodist leadership: that is the goal, though it is not yet legally possible to reach it. But much can be done to move purposefully in that direction. A major advantage of this move is that the Methodist Church, which has no other place of worship in Berkhamsted, will take responsibility for the provision of continuing clerical leadership, which might otherwise not have happened. That is clearly a desirable outcome.

### What now?

Much of the discussion (indeed much discussion over the last 30 years) has focussed on the desire of All Saints' to be an independent, self-determining church, something identifiable that people know they can *join* (and support financially). Since the two All Saints' congregations (Anglicans and Methodists) have been worshipping together as one congregation (about two years), a desire has emerged for a more consistent and coherent liturgical style, rather than the considerable variety from week to week which presently exists. These two concerns are clearly related. Once all involved had got over the initial shock which the prospect of change always prompts, the advantages of the new arrangement in these areas have been grasped enthusiastically.

For this reason the Leadership Team recommended that the first change, to be enacted as quickly as practicable, should be to a new pattern of worship, which should feed the worshipping life of as many of the present members of All Saints' as possible, rather than reflect, primarily, denominational prescriptions.

The date for the change was set as Pentecost this year because that is a

significant and appropriate date in the life of the church, and because **Paul Timmis** could by then have run a course for worship leaders, to increase the participation of church members in the change and in leading worship, while also having more than a year in post to support those who take part.

That is what will happen first. Leadership of services will be the responsibility of All Saints' itself, led and overseen by the Methodist Minister, with Anglican Lay Readers and Clergy participating, we hope, monthly.

#### Structures and Finance

Change in how All Saints' relates to the Anglican parish and the Methodist Circuit both financially and structurally will take longer to negotiate and effect. The Joint Council has been asked to appoint two small working groups, one for structures

and one for finance, to recommend the best way to proceed. There will be further consultations with the Diocese, the Methodist Church and, inevitably, lawyers. It is not proposed to withdraw from the Sharing Agreement, nor will there be any sudden change of financial arrangements or structural relationships.

#### Summary

The goal, to make All Saints' a full member of the Anglican Team as a Methodist led church, has the potential to enhance its sense of identity and mission, building on long established relationships in the spirit of the Anglican/Methodist Covenant. We have started by working on worship because that is where any church lives, and how people encounter it. It is hoped that starting with worship will also help build prayerful relationships which will assist in the other more administrative tasks. ❖



*Chris Billington*

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Our planet is warming at an unprecedented rate. Drought, flooding and disease directly attributable to climate change are already having devastating effects on the world's poorest communities

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### The View from Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week

13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May

Rapid melting of glaciers is bringing flooding in some areas, and in the long term the disappearance of tropical glaciers threatens dire water shortages for hundreds of millions of people

**Christian Aid Week** is a huge outpouring of generosity. It is a vital time for Christian Aid's work, and it relies on the donations of thousands of people around the UK and Ireland.

Aid and development are essential to Christian Aid's work, but in themselves are not enough to end poverty. Christian Aid believes that we must tackle the underlying causes of poverty – in particular the decisions that are made by those in influential positions in the rich world, whose actions can affect those who have no voice. Christian Aid believes that the Christian gospel demands that we do all we can to challenge injustice and inequality and work for a world where everyone is included in the feast of life.

Climate change is a social justice issue that we have to address if we are serious about ending poverty. Scientists are now certain that our planet is warming at an unprecedented rate, and human activities that emit carbon, such as driving our cars and heating our homes, are the cause of the change. This is already having a devastating effect on developing countries. As cooler regions warm, disease is spreading. For example, the highlands of Tanzania and Rwanda, previously unaffected by malaria, have seen the rate of infection rise in recent years. Prolonged periods of drought are wrecking harvests and ruining lives. Unprecedented temperature rises reduce crop yields and lead to the extinction of plant and animal species, destroying the delicate balance of ecosystems on which people struggling to earn a living depend.

in South America and Asia. Rising ocean temperatures fuel more intense and destructive extreme weather events, and the expansion of warming oceans, together with melting polar ice and collapsing ice sheets, could raise sea levels by up to six metres. It is estimated that by 2050, 150 million people will be environmental refugees, including around 15 million from Bangladesh.

In any natural or man-made disaster, it is the poor who suffer most, and the ongoing effects of climate change are no exception. Rich countries and rich people can afford to rebuild stronger houses and protect their livelihoods; poor countries simply do not have the means to do this. Even in countries such as El Salvador, people in the capital with access to more resources and education will fare better than the rural poorer communities.

People in rich countries are responsible for emitting around 12 times more carbon into the atmosphere than those in poor countries. This balance needs to be redressed. Those of us in the developed world need to emit less carbon, and pay compensation to developing countries, so that their development may continue in an environmentally friendly way.

**Please take action on climate change. Sign the prayer and action card during Christian Aid Week which calls on the Prime Minister to drastically cut carbon emissions.**

*To find out more about Christian Aid's campaign to stop climate change, visit <http://www.christianaid.org.uk>* ❖



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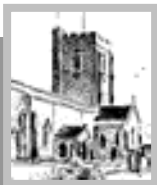
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## *review* Northchurch & Wigginton

### **The Running Disciples**

**The Revd Jonathan Gordon** senses the excitement of the first Easter day

I enjoy at the end of the day flicking through the channels on television and Film Four were showing *Forrest Gump*. The film had been running for an hour and had reached the part where Forrest starts to run across America from coast

to coast. There is no particular reason for this, but it starts to spark people's imaginations and hundreds of other people start to join him on his journey. The film always strikes a chord because I like running and periodically passers by like to make a comment when passing by. The most popular over a number of years has been a quote from the film: *run, Forrest, run*.

There are a number of references to running in the stories of Jesus and in particular John's account of the first Easter morning. In John's account of the resurrection, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away. So she runs away from the burial place and pelts straight into Peter and the unnamed beloved disciple, and tells them that someone has taken Jesus out of the tomb and she and her companions have no idea where he has been taken. Mary runs in panic and grief, but after passing on the news to the two disciples they start running back towards the tomb. John states that this was not a gentle jog, but a race, in which the beloved disciple outruns Peter and reaches the tomb first.

When Peter has caught up, he goes into the tomb and observes the linen wrappings and cloth that had been around Jesus' body. Then the beloved disciple enters and we are told that *he saw and believed*. He is the first person to believe in the Easter news of resurrection. John shows that the others come to believe in different ways. Mary believes that Jesus is alive when he speaks her name in the garden, the other disciples believe when he appears to them, and Thomas only believes when he can see Jesus and touch him. For the beloved disciple the only evidence he needs is the empty tomb. He peers in the dark, but by doing so his faith is kindled. He did not need any external proofs or physical evidence; he was able to run towards the tomb with a sense of rising expectancy that the world had been changed.

The description of the running disciples gives some sense of the mixture of emotions on that first Easter morning. The image suggests pounding heartbeats, sweat, exhaustion, and breathlessness, but also rising anticipation and excitement. The world is changing and it is impossible to stand still and the implication given in the Gospels is that you have to keep moving. We may well come to Easter with a sense of faith, doubt or bewilderment, but quite possibly there is something in the story that sparks our curiosity and imagination. The encouragement within the Gospel story is not to ignore that feeling, but act upon it and search out where it might lead. ❖

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# review notes & notices

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## BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI

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At our March meeting our Joint President **Joy Lovell** welcomed members including two new members. She went on to read two poems and with Secretary **Janet Mitchell** gave out news about forthcoming events.

Our speaker this month was **Robert Lancaster** whose illustrated talk was entitled *Pull Yourself Together Girls* which was the history of the **Spirella Corset** firm which was based at Letchworth from 1910 to 1985. The firm was renowned for the excellent treatment of its staff who were allowed plenty of leisure facilities. Oh - but the slides of models wearing the laced whalebone corsets left us wondering about the comfort angle of these garments! The vote of thanks was given by **Judith Lowther**. Our next meeting is on 13<sup>th</sup> April at the Court House at 2:00pm. Our speaker will be **Patricia Lindsey**, talking on *The Way We Were*. A warm welcome awaits visitors and new members.

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## DACORUM LIVE

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**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April** 7:45pm in the Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted Collegiate School Kings Road: The London Mozart Players - Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi, Handel. Tickets £15/£13 from Box Office (228091), Civic Centre and at the door.

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## OXFAM CHILDREN'S WEAR EVENT

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**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April** 9.00am - 11.30am at the Civic Centre

Berkhamsted's Oxfam shop is receiving accolades in the press and from customers for its amazing window displays. Oscars one week, Crufts the next. Another amazing thing about the shop is the two-way flow of children's clothes, toys,

books, and equipment. Donors provide high quality items. The shop processes and sells them to support vital water and sanitation projects in poverty stricken countries.

The quantity of donated goods and the amounts sold are a tribute to the generosity of local people. In response, twelve years ago, the shop inaugurated a Children's Wear Event. This has gone from strength to strength, typically raising up to £5,000 in just over two hours.

Please be a donor, purchaser, or helper. Voluntary help on the day of the Event, and in the shop at all times, is always welcome. If you want to be part of a success story, phone Jane in the shop on 864225, or Nicky on 872502.

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## WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER

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### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

The Week of Accompanied Prayer is an opportunity for people to set aside a week during their busy lives to allow God to be more closely in touch with their daily world through prayer. This enables a 'retreat' in daily life and is designed to meet you wherever you are in terms of life and spiritual journey. Each person commits half an hour a day for a week to prayer and a further half-hour each day to meet with a trained prayer guide.

The week starts with an evening session on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April (8.00-9.30pm) On Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday you will meet individually with your guide at a mutually agreed time. The week ends with everyone together on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May (8.00-9.30pm) at the Court House.

For further information and/or an application form please contact **Anne Strach** on 872542, [anne@lastrach.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:anne@lastrach.fsnet.co.uk) or **Jackie Harbron** on 873012, [jackie@experts.co.uk](mailto:jackie@experts.co.uk)

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# *review*notes&notices

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## OXFAM EASTER EGGS

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An Easter egg is a symbol of new life and Oxfam is all about helping people to achieve a new and better quality of life.

So buying your Easter eggs from Oxfam serves two purposes. You get a very good quality Fairtrade product and help the overseas aid charity to achieve its objectives.

There are dark chocolate eggs with brazil nuts, organic, flavoured with orange, and milk Dubble eggs as well as dark and milk chocolate mini-eggs. For that Easter gift there are delicious Belgian chocolates in attractive spring wrappings.

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## HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS JEWELLERY SALE

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**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April** 10am - 4pm  
in the Town Hall

Please let us have your jewellery to sell at the sale. We are building a great collection of jewellery from all eras and all fashions and plan to have the exceptional pieces valued before the event. If you would like to contribute jewellery to the sale please place the items in a secure envelope or bag, clearly marked **JEWELLERY SALE** and hand it in at one of the Hospice shops or at the new Hospice in Spring Garden Lane, Shootersway, Berkhamsted.

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## A FAIRTRADE DIOCESE

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In the Diocese of St Albans there are now enough Fairtrade parishes, like our own, for the Diocese to be registered with the Fairtrade Foundation as a Fairtrade Diocese. What this means in practical terms is that there are now at least 250 churches in the Diocese where Fairtrade principles guide the purchasing policy.

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## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BERKHAMSTED SPONSORED WALK

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### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Organisation of the Walk is all but complete! The routes have been surveyed, maps printed, and sponsor forms sent out. There will be three routes. Eighteen and eleven mile walks start at the Court House with registration between 10.00 am and noon. A six mile walk starts from the Ashridge Management College with registration between 11:00am and 2:00pm.

The routes, all new and with way marks to guide you, are through the beautiful countryside of the National Trust's Ashridge Estate and the Chiltern Hills.

Sponsor forms are available now at Bookthrift, 248 High Street, Berkhamsted, or at the Complete Outdoors, London Road, Bourne End. The form can also be downloaded from the website, <http://www.berkhamstedwalk.org.uk>.

Closer to the date, other outlets in the town will have sponsor forms on display, or phone 864968 for information and forms to be sent to you.

There will be three prizes, generously donated by The Complete Outdoors, for the most sponsorship raised. They are a Paramo Jacket, Brasher Boots, and a pair of walking poles or goods from the shop to equal value. Tips on fundraising are in the sponsor form, as is how to use the website <http://www.justgiving.com> making it much easier to raise and collect sponsorship. It would help us, and save your time, if you register using the *Register Now* form attached to the sponsor form, or register on-line.

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## MARKET DATES

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**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May:** French Market:

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April:** Farmers Market

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May:** Antiques & Collectibles

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Viewing and judging: Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007  
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# reviewholy week

## PALM SUNDAY HOLY WEEK & EASTER DAY : 1 - 8 April 2007

### Palm Sunday

Sun	1	8:00am	Eucharist with Palm Crosses.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		9:30am	Blessing of Palms and Sung Eucharist (starting in St Peter's car park).....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		10:00am	All Age Communion (Methodist led) .....	<i>All Saints'</i>
		6:30pm	Concert – Chiltern Chamber Choir Music for Lent & Passiontide.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	2	7:30pm	Eucharist followed by .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		8:00pm	Service of Reconciliation .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		9:30pm	Compline.....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Tue	3	7:30pm	Eucharist .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		8:00pm	... followed by Stations of the Cross .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		8:00pm	Meditative Act of Worship.....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Wed	4	9:30-3pm	Easter Holiday Club .....	<i>All Saints'</i>
		7:30pm	Eucharist .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		8:00pm	... followed by Tenebrae.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		9:30pm	Compline.....	<i>All Saints'</i>

### Maundy Thursday

Thu	5	8:00pm	Eucharist of the Lord's Supper & Vigil of Prayer †.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		8:00pm	Holy Communion (Methodist led) .....	<i>All Saints'</i>

### Good Friday

Fri	6	12-3pm	Three Hour Devotion including the Liturgy of the Day † .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		2:00pm	Readings, prayers and hymns .....	<i>All Saints'</i>
			with times of silence between finishing with ... ..	
		3:20pm	Evening Prayer.....	<i>All Saints'</i>

### Easter Eve

Sat	7	9:00pm	The Easter Vigil .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
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### Easter Day

Sun	8	8:00am	Eucharist .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		9:30am	Sung Eucharist .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		10:00am	Holy Communion (Methodist led) .....	<i>All Saints'</i>
		6:00pm	Choral Evensong .....	<i>St Peter's</i>

† Preacher: The Reverend Mark Pryce, Bishop's Advisor for Clergy Continuing Ministerial Education in the Diocese of Birmingham and sometime Dean of Chapel at Corpus Christi College Cambridge

## April

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong
	<i>All Saints' 1<sup>st</sup></i>	10:00am All Age Communion – Methodist Led
	8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led
	15 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led 10:00am Morning Worship – Methodist led
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00am Morning Worship - Anglican led
	29 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Sung Eucharist – Anglican led
All services at <i>St Peter's</i> unless otherwise indicated MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer		
MON	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm
TUE	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 9:30am <i>All Saints'</i>
WED	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 8:00am
THU		EP 5:00pm Eucharist 11:00am ( <i>Fr Michael's day off</i> )
FRI	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm <i>both churches</i> Eucharist 9:15am
SAT	MP 9:30am <i>St Peter's</i> MP 8:45am <i>All Saint's</i>	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 10:00am

1 <sup>st</sup> Sun	SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH 12:30pm	<i>Court House</i>
	For anyone on their own on a Sunday.	Contact: Joan Morris (863780)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm	<i>Court House</i>
	Contact June Haile (873087), Thelma Harris (865785) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)	
Tue	HILLSIDE GROUP: 8:00pm at 22 Upper Hall Park for bible study.	
	Contacts: Rob & Julie Wakely (875504)	
Tue	CHUCKLES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 10:00-11:30am	<i>All Saints' Church Hall</i>
	Song Time or Short service as announced.	Jenny Wells (870981)
Tue	ST PETER'S CHOIR Children 5:15 to 6:15pm	<i>St Peter's</i>
	Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Tue	TUESDAY CLUB 8:15pm <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker</i>	<i>Court House</i>
	Contact chairman Val Atkinson (866792) or secretary Joan Gregory (864829)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm.	
	<i>Non-members always welcome.</i>	Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:00pm	<i>17 Shaftesbury Court.</i>
	Tell us if anyone needs our prayers.	Contact: Jenny Wells (870981)
Wed	JULIAN MEETING: meets about twice a month	at Jenny's <i>57 Meadow Rd</i>
	<i>All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged</i>	or at Ruth's <i>1 Montague Rd</i>
	Contact: Jenny Wells 870981 or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)	
Wed	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7-8:30pm . (yrs 5-8) Jimmy Young (384929)	
		<i>All Saints' Hall</i>
3rd Wed	GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT Lunch at 12:30pm for those who have been bereaved.	
	Contact Thelma Harris (865785)	
Thu	HOME GROUP: 8:00pm on 2nd & 4th Thursdays.	Contact Linda Bisset (862115)
Alt. Thu	TE'S (Youth club for yr 9+) 7-9pm	Jimmy Young (384929) <i>Court House</i>
Thu	BELLRINGING: 8:00pm Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) (863804)	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am	<i>Court House</i>
	Weekly meetings with a short service 1st Fri in St Peter's (10am)	
		Nicole Addy-Varndell (864094)
Fri	ST PETER'S CHOIR: Children 7:00-8:30pm, Adults 7:30-8:30pm.	<i>St Peter's</i>
	Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers.	<i>Various local churches</i>

## reviewdiary

Please see opposite for services at St Peter's and All Saints' churches.

April/May

### April

1-8

See p27 for Holy Week and Easter Day services

Tue	17	10:15am	Chuckles Service <i>Breakfast by the Lake</i> .....	All Saints'
Thu	19	5:00pm	Preparation Course for children taking Communion before Confirmation .....	St Peter's
Fri	20	1:00pm	Lunchtime Recital – Jane McClelland violin, Vince Shaw piano .....	Lady Chapel, St Peter's
Sat	21	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast .....	Sacred Heart
Sun	22	6:00pm	Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration for departed family & friends .....	St Peter's
Tue	24	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council .....	The Court House
Thu	26	5:00pm	Preparation Course for children taking Communion before Confirmation .....	St Peters'

### May

Tue	1	6:15am	Madrigals sung by Chiltern Chamber Choir from the tower .....	St Peter's
		10:15am	Chuckles Service <i>The Lost Sheep</i> .....	All Saints'
Thu	3	5:00pm	Preparation Course for children taking Communion before Confirmation .....	St Peter's
Fri	4	10:00am	Little Fishes Service .....	St Peter's
Sun	6	6:00pm	Christian Aid Service .....	St Peters'
Thu	10	5:00pm	Preparation Course for children taking Communion before Confirmation .....	St Peters'
Sat	12	7:30pm	Berkhamsted Choral Society Summer Concert .....	St Peter's
Sun	13	10:00am	The Children's Society Berkhamsted Sponsored Walk commences from .....	The Court House
		6:00pm	Choral Evensong .....	St Peters'
Mon	14	8:00pm	Eucharist with Prayers for Healing .....	St Peter's
Tue	15	10:00am	Chuckles Service <i>Our Hidden Friend</i> .....	All Saints'
Sat	19	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast .....	St Peter's
Sun	20	9:30am	Confirmation and First Communion, Christopher +Hertford presiding and with renewal of Stewardship pledges .....	St Peter's

## reviewregisters

### Baptisms (St Peter's)

11 February Harriet Lucy George

### Funerals

14 February Eileen Mary Welling

Chilterns Crematorium

## review factfile

### YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST PETER'S AND ALL SAINTS'

#### St Peter's

Sunday school and Pathfinders run from 9:30am to 10:30 in the Court House (next to the church in the High Street). Sunday School caters for 4 to 10 year olds, Pathfinders from 10 years upwards. Contact Sally Emery (870656) or Stephen Lally for Pathfinders (863526).

Crèche is available at 9:30am for under 3's. Parents are most welcome to use this facility in the Court House. Please contact Nicola Beadle (874538)

#### All Saints'

The Anglican and Methodist children meet together on Sundays at 10:00 am as *Explorers*, in four age-groups: *Trekkers* 3-5 years, *Hikers* 5-8 years, *Climbers* 8-10 years and *Pathfinders* 11 years onward. Contacts: for Explorers—Carenza Wilton (875147), for Pathfinders—Penny O'Neill (843422) or Rebecca Judd (865691). Crèche is available at the same time for children under 3. Contact: Vicky Drury (384794).

#### Youth Groups

TEs for Year 9 up meets each alternate Thursday at 7pm to 9pm in the Court House  
Contact Jimmy Young (384929)

Pathfinders games club meets 7:00-8:30pm each Wednesday in All Saints' Hall. Contact Jimmy Young (384929)

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# reviewcontacts

## General

**The Revd Dr Michael Bowie**, Team Rector, The Rectory, Rectory Lane (864194)  
(day off Thursday)  
**The Revd Prof. Luke Geoghegan** (NSM), 16 Gravel Path, (866361)  
**The Revd Canon Basil Jones** (Hon.Asst.Priest), 17 Lochnell Road (864485)  
**Christina Billington** (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise (385566)  
**Marjorie Bowden** (Reader), 16 Broadwater (871283)  
**Joan Cook** (Reader), The Gardeners Arms, Castle Street (866278)  
**John Malcolm** (Reader), Landswood, Shootersway (874993)  
**Jenny Wells** (Reader), 57 Meadow Road (870981)  
 Parish Administration: **Jean Green**, The Parish Office, the Court House (878227)  
 Stewardship Recorder: **Miles Nicholas**, 46 Fieldway (871598)  
 Churchwardens: **Chris Hunt**, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607)  
**Tracy Robinson**, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)  
 Parochial Church Council: Secretary: **Pat Hunt**, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607)  
 Treasurer: **Michael Robinson**, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)

## St Peter's

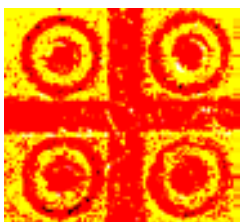
Director of Music: **Adrian Davis** (864722) <http://stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk>  
 Asst. Director of Music: **Jean Wild** (866859)  
 Organist: **Jonathan Lee** (0794 1113232)  
 Weddings and Funerals,  
 Banns of Marriage and  
 Baptisms: **Fr Michael Bowie** (864194)  
 Bellringers (St Peter's): **Priscilla Watt**, 11 Cavalier Court, Chesham Road (863804)

<http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk>

## All Saints'

Choirmaster: **Peter McMunn** (874894)  
 All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership.  
 Methodist minister: **The Revd Paul Timmis** (866324)

### What & Where in St Peter's?



Answer next month

### Answer to March's What & Where



The internals of the St Peter's tower clock.  
 The single hour hand runs anticlockwise!

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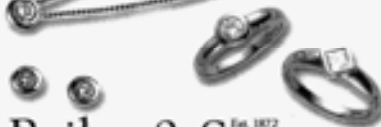
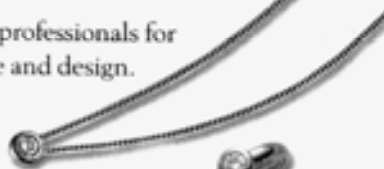
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